

SENSITIVE

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SITUATION(S) MESSAGE(S) LISTING

DATE 09/23/73//266

DIA REVIEWED 20-Nov-2009: SANITIZED FOR RELEASE IN PART

SITUATION: HAK TRIP
 SUBJECT CATEGORY: TOHAK

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MESSAGE:

IMMEDIATE

O 201816Z OCT 73

FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 26

TO

25x1-human

S E C R E T SENSITIVE WH32555

TOHAK 26

TO: HENRY A. KISSINGER
 FROM: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

TO: WHITE HOUSE

FROM:

25x1

SUBJ: GRC SIT UPDATE - EGYPTFRONT 20 OCT 73 (U)

1. (SNF) REUTER AT 2101300Z OCT ON MILITARY SITUATION, HIS ACCOUNT OF ACTY ON THE GY FRONT WAS A LITTLE CONFUSED AND HIS RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS DID NOT SHED ANY APPRECIABLE LIGHT ON SITUATION.
2. (SNF) TONE OF BRFC WAS DEFINITELY OPTIMISTIC WITH PHRASES SUCH AS, "BEGINNING OF THE END", "IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME", "EGYPT HAS LOST," ETC. YET REUTER WAS REMARKABLY SUBDUED, WHICH COULD SUGGEST THAT OUTCOME LESS CERTAIN THAN BRFD, OR IT COULD BE EXPLAINED IF EGY COUNTER ATTACK INFLICTED HVY CASUALTIES ON IDF.
3. (SNF) A SLIP OF THE TONGUE FORCED REUTER TO CONFIDE THAT LTC CHAIN BARLEV (RES) EX CH OF STAFF & CURRENT MIN OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, WAS IN COMMAND OF THE WEST BANK TASK FORCE, FROM A MODEST FORCE OF APPROX 20 TANKS ON 16 OCT, THIS TASK FORCE, HAS NOW GROWN TO APPROX DIV SIZE, CERTAINLY IS TOP HEAVY WITH A 3 STAR IN CMD, AND THE TWO BDES CMD BY MGS (C.O. OF THERE PDE UNK).
4. (SNF) REUTER CLAIMS THAT EGY ARMY ATTEMPTED LAST NIGHT TO SET UP FORCES TO CONTAIN IDF, BUT THAT FAULTYCOORD AND EXECUTION REDUCED EFFECTIVENESS OF EFFORT. APPARENTLY, EGY FORCED DID SEIZE

***** WHSR COMMENTS *****

SCOWCROFT, HOWE, SEC FILES

PSN1012273

DTG:201816

TOR:2931646

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MANY ROAD INTERSECTIONS AND OTHER STRATEGIC POINTS WHERE THEY SET UP ANTI-TANK DEFENSES.

5. (SNF) IDF, TODAY, BYPASSED ALL SUCH ANTI-TANK DEFENSES AS WELL AS ANY POINTS DEFENDED BY INF (WHO ARE PRESUMED TO HAVE ANTI-TANK MISSILES). LITTLE IS KNOWN OF MG "ARIK SHARON'S NORTHERN INF & PARA BDE WHICH CLOSED TOWARD ISMAILIA, BUT IT IS ASSUMED THAT HE HAS SECURED THE NW FLANK. THE CENTRAL ARMD BDE WHICH WAS STALLED YESTERDAY ENROUTE TO JEBEL JAFRA (3009N-3155E) HAS TODAY VEERED TO THE NW AND HAS SECURED THE CAIRO-ISMAILIA DESERT ROAD, APPROX 25-30KM W OF CANAL - THE BULK OF THE FIGHTING SEEMS TO HAVE FALLEN TO THE SOUTHERN ARMD BDE (C.O. IS MG "BREN" ADAN - CG OF ARMD CORPS). THIS BDE YESTERDAY WAS STALLED IN ITS DIRVE TOWARDS SUEZ CITY WHEN ELEMENTS OF EGY 4TH ARMD DIV PASSED FROM EAST BANK TO WEST AND COUNTER ATTACKED. MAJOR BATTLE WAS JOINED IN VIC OF 4TH DIV HQ, WHICH WAS OVERRUN AT APPROX 1200Z BY IDF BDE WHICH THEN SWEEPED TO SW AND IS CURRENTLY ATKG EGY 3D ARMY HQ NEAR JEBEL JAFRA.

6. (SNF) REUTER CLAIMS THAT IDF HAS INTERDICTED ALL HWYS & RRS FROM CAIRO T SUEZ CITY & ISMAILIA, THUS ISOLATING EGY FORCES STILL ON EAST BANK. HE STATED THAT THERE IS NOT MUCH WILL TO FIGHT OBSERV

D IN EGY SOLDIERS NOW, WITH MANY JUST STANDING AROUND AND WATCHING WHAT IS GOING ON AROUND THEM. THERE IS APPARENTLY A LARGE SCALE EXODUS OF PEOPLE ON ROAD LEADING NW OUT OF PORT SAID. REUTER CLAIMS THAT MANY ARE PROBABLY EGY SOLDIERS WHO HAVE DITCHED THEIR UNIFORMS AND ARMS AND DONNED MUFTI.

7. (SNF) REUTER ALSO CLAIMED THAT BY APPROX 1130Z, THE IDF SAW THE START OF MOVEMENT OF VEHICLES FROM EAST & WEST BANK IN SOUTHERN SECTOR. HE STATED THAT IDF NOT INTERFERING WITH FLEEING EGY G.I.'S, BUT ARE CAPTURING OFFICERS THERE ARE REPORTS THAT SEVERAL EGY GENERALS HAVE BEEN CAPTURED IN THE BATTLES VIC 4TH DIV & 3D ARMY HQS.

8. (SNF) FINAL POINT MADE BY REUTER WAS THAT IDF HAS REPORTEDLY DESTROYED MANY SA-2'S AND 3'S. HE SAID THAT IDF HAD BEEN GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO CAPTURE RATHER THAN DESTROY, SA-6'S IF POSSIBLE, XGDS-1, 910

BT

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